



HARVARD-RADCLIFFE CLASS OF 1966

Dear Classmates,

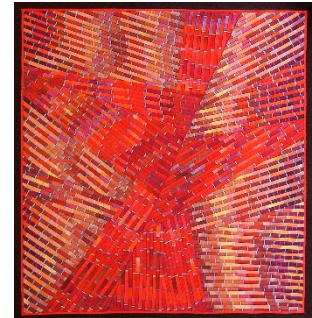
May 2021

Our May newsletter, coming to you just prior to our 55th reunion! Great excitement, as I'm sure all of you will partake of some part of it. **If you have comments about this newsletter, don't hit reply. Use tblack@post.harvard.edu as the return address.**

Randy Lindel, 55th reunion co-chair:

Reunion Links. The complete 55th Reunion schedule with Internet links to all events is being sent out to all classmates this week and also next Tuesday, June 1. The program and links are also on the home page of the class website – www.hr66.org. Click on the image of the schedule to download a .pdf copy with live links you can use throughout the reunion.

New Postings from Classmate Artists. Several classmates have posted their amazing creative works on the Creative Works page on the Our Class menu on hr66.org. Most, if not all, will be available to talk about their work at our Reunion Afterglow session on Friday, June 4. You can go directly to this wonderful showcase at:
<https://1966.classes.harvard.edu/article.html?aid=101>



Memorial Service Thursday, June 3 at Noon ET. While we could consume the whole newsletter with information about different reunion events, we'd like to ask that you particularly mark your calendar for our June 3 Memorial Service at Noon ET. Classmates have made quite wonderful verbal and musical contributions to this session which will transport us to Mem Church in our imaginations..

Alice Abarbanel:

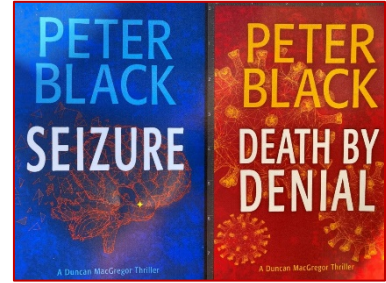
A link to the Zoom Presentation of the oral History Project on May 28 at 3:30 EDT.
<https://alumni.harvard.edu/programs-events/radcliffe-college-alumnae-oral-history-project>
It is mentioned on the reunion link but there is no direct link to sign up. **People can register through the Crimson Society from this link.**
Also it would be great if you reach out to the men in the Class to tune in!

Robert Eddy:

Auspiciously this morning (5/22) and shortly before our reunion I completed a streak of 1966 consecutive days on the Duolingo language learning app. Currently having a great experience working on their new Yiddish course.

Peter Black:

After completing my active tenure as Franc D. Ingraham Professor of Neurosurgery at Harvard Medical School, I began writing novels as my second career. Both *Seizure* and *Death by Denial*, available on Amazon, have ebook and audiobook versions available this month. For more details, visit PeterBlackbooks.com. I hope our classmates will find them interesting and look forward to seeing everyone in the June reunion.



Bill Neaves:

Inserted below is a photo of a scissor-tailed flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) photographed at Priscilla's ranch on 19 May 2021. The state bird of Oklahoma, it is abundant in the rolling plains of Northwest Texas during the spring breeding season. Mating pairs build nests in mesquite trees and catch flying insects to feed their offspring.

Jeff Tarr:

Jeff Tarr @ Operation Match: The Harvard Student Who Connected People from His Dorm Web Masters. Jeff Tarr shares the story of how he built Operation Match, the world's first popular computer dating service. Listen on Apple Podcasts: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/web-masters/id1530077719?i=1000521987153>

Margaret Walsh Rossiter:

This item was in *The Harvard Crimson* on May 13 and may interest the Radcliffe members of '66. I hope you can forward it to them—with the note that Margaret Rossiter thought this might interest them. Thanks.

"More Than 100 Radcliffe College Alumnae Protest New 'Shorthand' Name For Radcliffe Institute"

Located at 10 Garden Street, the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study adopted the vernacular name Harvard Radcliffe Institute earlier this year.

By [Soumyaa Mazumder](#)

By [Natalie L. Kahn](#), Crimson Staff Writer

May 13, 2021

More than 100 Radcliffe College alumnae signed onto letters protesting a decision by the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study to adopt the vernacular name Harvard Radcliffe Institute earlier this year.

The Institute announced the name change on Jan. 28, but several alumnae expressed concern after seeing it referred to as the Harvard Radcliffe Institute in a mailing in advance of Radcliffe Day later this month, after which multiple classes, including the classes of 1968 and 1971, sent letters to Dean Tomiko Brown-Nagin.

In a letter from the class of 1968, nearly 80 alumnae spoke out against the name change.

“Recent mailings from Harvard University have referred to the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study as the ‘Harvard Radcliffe Institute,’” the letter read. “The undersigned Radcliffe alumnae ... are writing to deplore this in the strongest terms.”

A separate letter signed by around 70 people — spearheaded by Katherine W. Bernier ’71 and also including some male alumni of the College — made similar complaints.

“There are still those of us, kicking and contributing, who were admitted to Radcliffe College; and many have already expressed horror and chagrin at the casual dismissive gesture of adding Harvard, the bastion of male privilege and early denier of women’s education, to the name of the Radcliffe Institute,” Bernier’s letter read.

In a response to the letter from the class of 1968, Brown-Nagin noted that the official name of the Institute will remain the Radcliffe Institute but that the new “shorthand” helps clarify the Institute’s standing within Harvard and among the public.

“Our full name remains the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University; that name is and will continue to be apparent in our website and public-facing materials,” she wrote.

“However, it has been clear for some time that the Institute’s achievements—a testament to its visionary leaders and loyal supporters—suffer from a lack of understanding of our purpose and history, both within the Harvard community and among the broader public,” she added.

The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Studies was formally established as an independent entity in 1999 following the merging of Radcliffe College with Harvard College.

Prior to the merger, the Institute was contained within Radcliffe College and known as the Bunting Institute, after former Radcliffe College president Mary I. “Polly” Bunting. Bunting founded it as the Radcliffe Institute for Independent Study in 1960 to combat the “climate of non-expectation” for female scholars.

The Institute announced a redesign of its website alongside the new vernacular name in January 2021. Though the new site contains the full name — Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study — in bold letters on the homepage, the site refers to the Institute as the Harvard Radcliffe Institute.

Nancy Stieber ’71, who also served as a fellow at the Institute from 2000-2001, said she was “shocked” to see the Radcliffe shield “juxtaposed” with the words “Harvard Radcliffe Institute.”

“Everyone connected directly with whom I’ve shared this new logo has been perturbed and upset by seeing it,” she said.

Susan S. Smart ’71 noted she believes the name change is “a violation of the spirit” of the 1999 agreement, which, according to Stieber, calls for the Institute to “sustain a continuing commitment” to the study of women, gender and society.

Smart added that the name change could signal the Radcliffe name’s “descent into obscurity,” quoting the letter from Bernier.

“The renaming was probably not intended to mean that, but presenting the public face of Harvard Radcliffe Institute, instead of honoring the creator of the Radcliffe Institute, is unacceptable to many of us,” Smart said.

Institute spokesperson Jane F. Huber wrote in an email that the Institute does not believe the “introduction of a shorter vernacular name” is a threat to the legacy of Radcliffe College, emphasizing that the Institute’s position is that the change “reflects our commitment to preserve, amplify, and expand on that legacy.”

“We are genuinely saddened that some alumnae feel that Radcliffe is being diminished,” she wrote, noting that the legacy of Radcliffe College “remains vital to today’s Radcliffe Institute.”

Huber added that the purpose of the vernacular change was for practical publicity purposes after feedback that the name was “too cumbersome” and did not “clearly suggest Radcliffe’s relationship to Harvard University.”

“We were increasingly being cited simply as ‘an institute at Harvard,’ and we felt that if we did not take action, this common usage would lead to the erasure of Radcliffe,” she wrote. “The adoption of Harvard Radcliffe Institute is an effort to protect the legacy and name of Radcliffe.”

Brown-Nagin also noted in her reply to the class of 1968 that she had received support for the change from other graduates of Radcliffe College.

“Indeed, while I understand and appreciate your concerns regarding our new branding, I also heard from many alumnae who value the clearer links we are creating to the history of Radcliffe College,” she wrote.

Bernier said Brown-Nagin’s response was “gracious,” but “may not have realized how offensive [the change] would be to so many,” noting she was “fine” with the less publicity if the full name was preserved.

“I think it’s well-known among serious scholars who are interested in those kinds of opportunities — at least enough of them to fill the roster of the year,” she said.

Ann B. Lesk ’68, however, called the Institute’s response, specifically the Dean’s letter, “dismissive,” noting that her class had suggested the alternative “Radcliffe Institute at Harvard University.”

“You want the Harvard name on it? Make it the ‘Radcliffe Institute at Harvard University,’” she said. “Don’t submerge Radcliffe in ‘Harvard Radcliffe Institute.’”

Lesk added that the change had made her, along with other Radcliffe College alumnae as well as some alumni of Harvard College, rethink their donations to the Institute.

“I will, for instance, will direct all future contributions to the Schlesinger Library, which is very much true to the original spirit of the Radcliffe Institute,” she said. “Others of my classmates have said that they are no longer interested in supporting the Institute as a result of this.”

“I hope President Bacow will take another look at this,” she added.

—Staff writer Natalie L. Kahn can be reached at natalie.kahn@thecrimson.com. Follow her on Twitter [@natalielkah](https://twitter.com/natalielkah)

Mike Abram:

During the course of this miserable pandemic, we have somehow managed to spend time safely with all of our respective daughters and stepdaughters, sons-in-law and grandsons. But not with my son, daughter-in-law, and granddaughters in Germany. That will change at last, when we visit in early August. Praise to the brilliant scientists who invented amazing vaccines, workers who churned them out, truck drivers who delivered them to the right place, and health care providers who shot them into our eager arms.

In Memoriam

AL AB65	Mr. Kenneth J. Annis	04/09/2021	Potomac, MD	Mrs. Susan J. Anniss 9200 Stapleford Hall Pl Potomac, MD 20854
AL AB66	Mr. Patrick James McGowan	12/31/2020	THAILAND	
AM COL66	Mr. Richard B. Fuchs	01/10/2021	Burlingame, CA	
AL AB67, AM71, PHD83	Dr. John Grant Rhodes	03/14/2021	Newburyport, MA	

In addition, and with thanks to Charles Troob, who sent this in:

Michael Razar died on April 25, 2021. He was in the class of 1966—he had sophomore standing on admission he graduated in 1965. He went on to get a PhD in math from Harvard. He was in Dunster for his two “upperclass” years.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/chicagotribune/name/michael-razar-obituary?pid=198440727>

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/wilmette-il/michael-razar-10167445>

See you all at the reunion,

Tom Black